

■ SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN



2024

OGDENSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 Main Street
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439



**Avenues
in Motion**

Introduction:

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an initiative that promotes safer and more accessible walking and bicycling environments for children in New Jersey through education, training, and research. SRTS is supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation with funds from the Federal Highway Administration. Avenues in Motion is one of eight Transportation Management Associations in New Jersey that provides SRTS programming to schools. Avenues in Motion's service area includes multiple counties in Northwestern New Jersey.

The Ogdensburg Borough Public School District has been collaborating with Avenues in Motion to implement pedestrian and bike safety education programs and events such as Walk to School Days, education programs such as Ready to Walk and Roll, Traffic Safety Town, and Bike Driver's Ed since 2015. In 2021 and 2022 the District, in collaboration with Avenues in Motion, conducted a Walkability Audit as well as Student Travel Tallies to begin writing a Travel Plan.

School Description:

Ogdensburg Borough is a small town located in Sussex County and has a total area of 2.28 square miles and a population of 2,258. The median household income is \$107,569, higher than the NJ median of \$96,346, and 5.8% of residents live in poverty, lower than the NJ median of 9.7%. Ogdensburg Borough is an urban cluster located in a relatively rural area.

Ogdensburg Elementary School is located at 100 Main Street, which is in the center of the borough at the intersection of County Highway 517 and Passaic Avenue. The Borough consists of small, separate neighborhoods that are connected only by County Highway 517 and Passaic Avenue.

The speed limit is 30 miles per hour between a point 1,110 feet south of Passaic Avenue to the municipal boundary of Ogdensburg Borough and Franklin Borough, with a School Zone where the speed limit is 25 miles per hour, between a point 975 south of Passaic Avenue and 285 north of Passaic Avenue during recess or while children are going to or leaving school during opening and closing times.

Grades offered: Pre-K - Grade 8	Student Enrollment 2021-2022	275
	Student Enrollment 2020-2021	266
	Student Enrollment 2019-2020	256

Ogdensburg Elementary School participates in the NJ Interdistrict Public School Choice Program.

School hours: 8:10-2:50 for Pre-K through Grade 4
8:10-2:55 for Grades 5-8
Breakfast for all students is available at 7:55

Goals of the Travel Plan:

1. To make travel to and from Ogdensburg Borough Public School District safer and more accessible
2. To encourage walking and bicycling to school
3. To set a foundation for ongoing Safe Routes to School programming
4. To create awareness amongst motorists in Ogdensburg Borough
5. To reduce traffic congestion on streets around Ogdensburg Borough Public School District during arrival and dismissal times.

Working Group Members:

Working group members consisted of Ogdensburg Borough Public School District staff and Avenues in Motion. Ogdensburg Borough Public School District has been encouraging students to walk and bike to school by hosting several Walk to School Day events a year and teacher volunteers acting as Walking School Bus leaders. The school wanted to create safer routes for students to get to and from school.

Member Name	Organization / Title	Role / Responsibility	Contact Info (phone, email)	General Timeline
Jessica Johnson Melissa McCutcheon	Avenue in Motion	Safe Routes to School/Air Quality Program Assistance	jjohnson@avenuesinmotion.org mmccutcheon@avenuesinmotion.org	Ongoing
Michelle Cooper	Ogdensburg Borough Public School District	SRTS leader	mcooper@obboe.org	Ongoing
Collette Liberatore	Ogdensburg Borough Public School District	SRTS leader	cliberatore@obboe.org	ongoing

Existing Effort:

Ogdensburg Borough Public School District is devoted to educating its students about pedestrian and bicycle safety, and has created a fun and safe walking and bicycling environment for students. Students are encouraged to walk and bike to school through Walk to School Day events during which teachers lead several Walking School Buses to school.

Proximity Analysis:

Ogdensburg Elementary School is located at 100 Main Street, which is in the center of the borough at the intersection of County Highway 517 and Passaic Avenue. The Borough consists of small, separate neighborhoods that are connected only by County Highway 517 and Passaic Avenue. County Highway 517 is a 55mph two lane highway with no shoulder and no pedestrian infrastructure. As the only North/South thru road in the township, more than half of residents have no access to any walking infrastructure from their residence to the school or other businesses in the business district. Furthermore, many residents who live in the parts of town that are connected to the school on the only East/West thru road, Passaic Ave, which also has no sidewalks or pedestrian infrastructure, have no walking infrastructure from their residence to the school or other businesses in the business district.

Safe Routes to School Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Programs and Events:

Ogdensburg Borough Public School District has partnered with Avenues in Motion since at least 2015 to provide pedestrian and bicycle encouragement and education programs to its students.

Walk to School Day and Walking School Bus events (ongoing)

The school holds multiple Walk/Bike to School events throughout the year. During these events, teachers meet students at several designated Walking School Bus locations along their walk to school and walk as a groups to school. Avenues in Motion partners on these events and provides giveaways to students who walked/biked along with a 'Spot The Safety Hazards' educational poster where students point out unsafe behaviors.



Air Quality Education (ongoing)

Avenues in Motion staff bring an air quality monitor for students to check the air quality during Walk to School Day events. Students mark what the air quality is on a poster and learn about how walking and biking helps to limit air pollution due to traffic.



Ready to Walk and Roll: (February 2019)

Students in 1st grade participated in this interactive storytelling streetscape classroom program led by Avenues in Motion. Students learned common street signs and safe ways to approach intersections by manipulating a miniature streetscape. Through storytelling, students identified safety hazards and safe choices when walking or biking to school.

Traffic Safety Town: (February 2019)

4th grade students participated in Avenues in Motion's Traffic Safety Town. Students took turns navigating a gym-sized streetscape as pedestrians, bike riders and drivers to practice the rules of the road. Students who did not follow the rules correctly received a traffic ticket and individual guidance before they could return to the road.

Bike Drivers Ed (February 2019)

6th grade students were taught the proper fit and engineering of a helmet and then used this information to engineer their own helmet design on an egg. Students' designs were tested in an egg drop.



Avenues in Motion's Bookmark Contests (ongoing)

Ogdensburg Borough Public School District has participated in Avenues in Motion's yearly themed bookmark contests, 'Be a Super Green Hero' (2020) , 'Streetscape Sweepstakes' (2021), 'Get Active For Clean Air' (2022), 'Be a Super Green Hero' (2023), and 'What makes it Safe to Bike Around Town' (2024). Students submitted bookmark designs showing how they were a Green Super Hero by walking or biking to help reduce air pollution as well as designed their ideal streetscape for fun, safety, and access for people of all ages and abilities.



Winter Wellness Week

During the pandemic when in-person programs were not possible, Ogdensburg K-4 students participated in a Winter Wellness Week in 2021. While students were on remote learning, teachers led students on stretch breaks and 'Walk Like a Penguin' walking breaks.

Summer Mileage Program

During the summer of 2021, kids and their families participated in Avenues in Motion's Summer Mileage Program. Kids and families were encouraged to set their own walking and biking distance goals over the summer.

Safe Routes to School Program Inclusion for Students with Disabilities:

Avenues in Motion will provide differentiated instruction during in-class education programs to all students. This includes students with both learning and physical disabilities. Avenues in Motion will work with Ogdensburg Borough Public School District staff to arrange special accommodations to ensure every student receives safety education in its various forms. During Walk to School Days, students unable to walk to school due to disabilities have been encouraged to participate by interacting with our 'Spot the Safety Hazards' poster to point out unsafe roadway behavior.

Current School Travel Environment:

School Policies:

Ogdensburg has a policy in place supporting Safe Routes to School and allows students to walk and bicycle to school as stated in School Policy 2.10 Parking and Transportation Procedures:

- Only buses and vehicles with Parking Permits are permitted in front of the building at drop-off and dismissal. Each student is personally responsible for maintaining a safe and appropriate environment while riding the bus.

- All other vehicles must utilize the North and South parking lots. Please do not block areas of moving traffic. If you have business in school at dismissal, do not park in the traffic lanes and especially NOT in the Fire Zone.
- Students are permitted to ride bicycles to school. Bikes are to be walked onto the school grounds and secured by lock on the bike rack. Helmets are required per New Jersey Law. Skateboards/scooters are NOT to be used on school property at any time.

Also please note:

- PreK students are actively walking in the South parking lot. Please be especially cautious in this lot.
 - Traffic into the school parking lot moves in one direction only, coming from the Passaic Avenue entrance.
 - Traffic leaving the school parking lot exits onto Route 517.
 - There is a NO PARKING ZONE in front of the school building between the stairways.
 - Use of the Horseshoe in front of the school is not allowed during drop off and pick up without a permit.
 - The North lot will be open for dismissal at 2:30 PM.
 - Please do not leave your car idling.
-
- Safe Routes to School Program: The Ogdensburg School District supports Safe Routes to School programs, events, and activities because active transportation can:
 - Increase physical activity
 - Improve student health
 - Decrease automobile congestion and related danger of injuries to students
 - Reduce air pollution and related greenhouse gas emissions
 - Reduce costs related to busing
 - Improve attendance rates and student achievement
 - The District supports efforts to increase traffic safety by minimizing driving to and from school. Ogdensburg School respects the many constraints on families' time and budgets and recognizes that driving is sometimes a necessary or practical alternative to active transportation.

Travel Tallies:

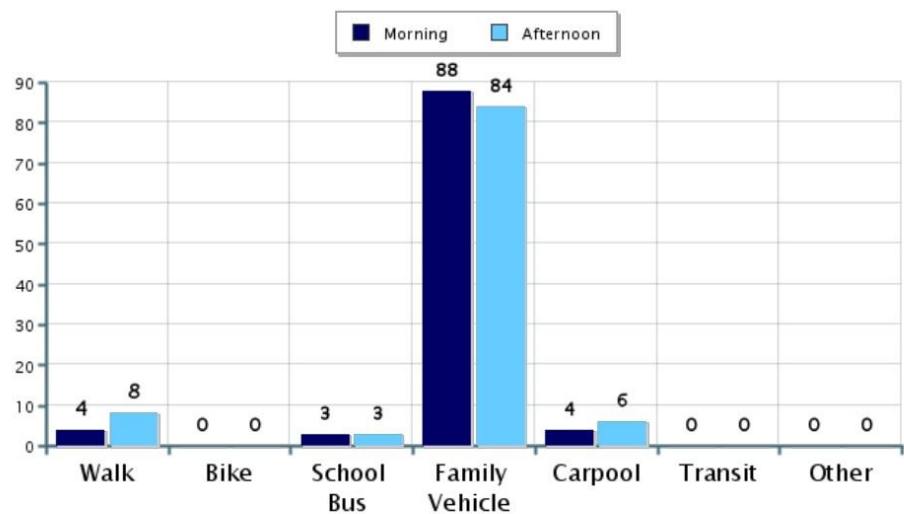
A Student Travel Tally from the National Center for Safe Routes to School was conducted on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, Wednesday, October 5, 2022 and Thursday, October 6, 2022. This tally collected data on student travel modes in both the morning and afternoon to gain an accurate understanding of how students travel to and from school. This data allows the administration to develop policies informed by their students' travel behaviors.

The data collected in this tally was completed by the homeroom teachers in a "show of hands" collection method where teachers asked students how they arrived to school that morning and how they planned to leave for home after school. Teachers then read off the list of choices to the students which include walk, bike, bus, carpool with children from other families, driven in a family vehicle with only children from your family, or other (scooter, skateboard, etc.), and students raised their hands for the option that matched how they traveled.

At Ogdensburg Borough Public School District, in the morning, on average, 4% of students walk while 88% commute via family vehicle. 3% of students commute by bus, 4% carpool, and the other less than 0% bike or use other forms of transportation¹. In the afternoons, on average, more students walked, 8%, and carpooled, 6%, while students being transported by bus stayed the same at 3%, and the number of students commuting by family vehicle dropped slightly at 84%. These numbers reflect the infrastructure of the Ogdensburg Borough, where a large percentage of students are unable to walk to school due to their homes being inaccessible to school via foot due to being solely connected by a busy county road with no shoulders or sidewalks or pedestrian infrastructure.

¹ Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

A breakdown summary of the survey results is presented below:

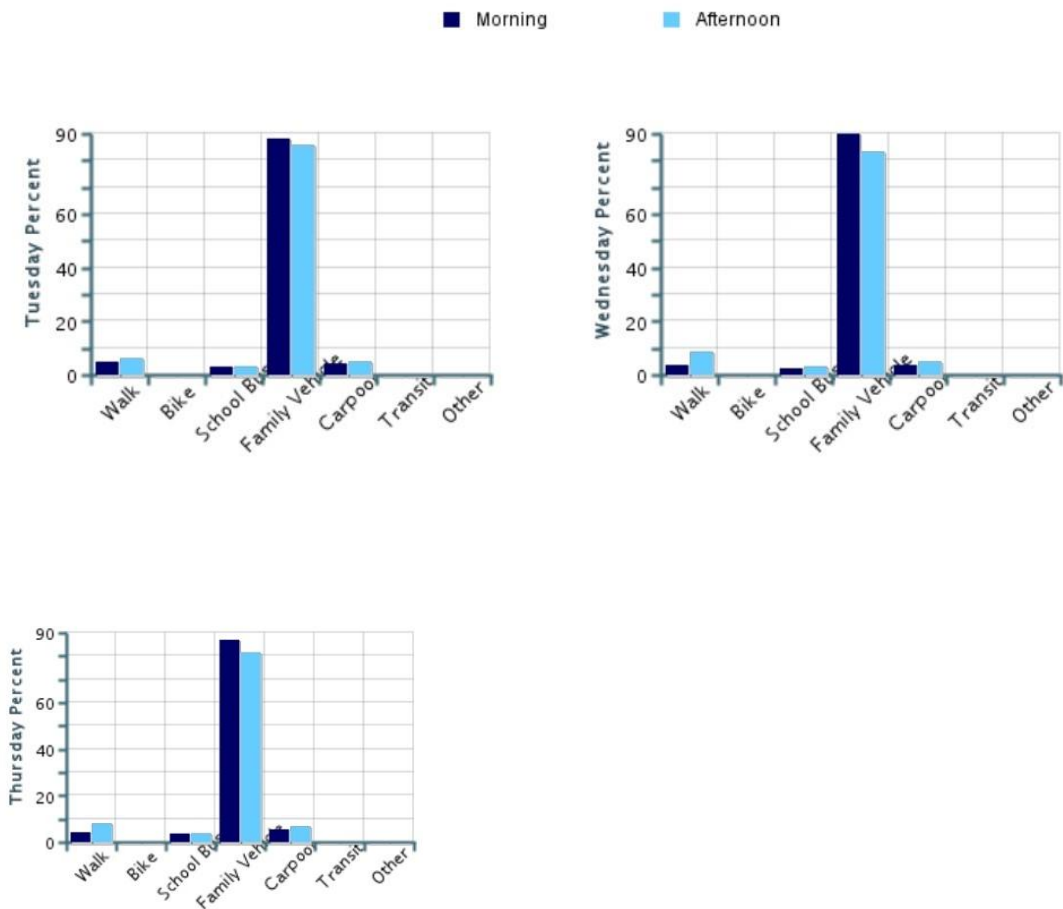


Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	506	4%	0%	3%	88%	4%	0%	0%
Afternoon	478	8%	0%	3%	84%	6%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

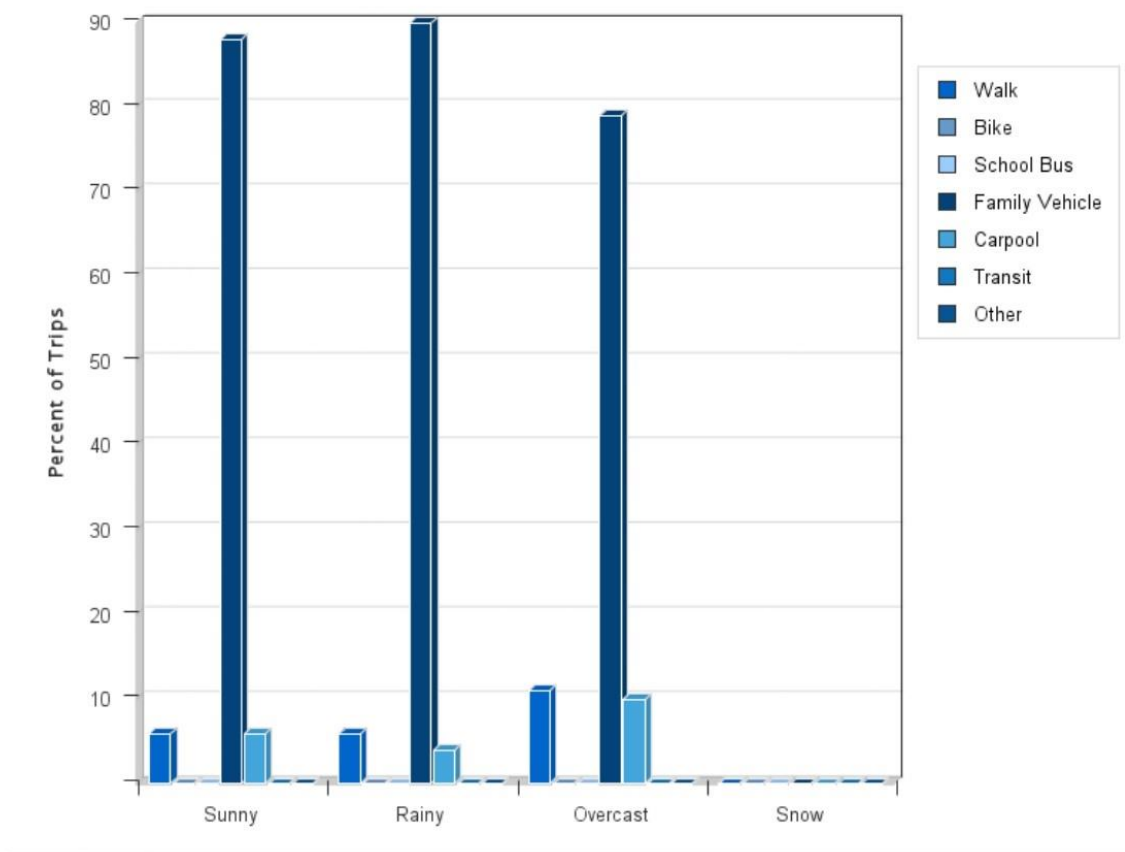


Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	174	5%	0%	3%	88%	4%	0%	0%
Tuesday PM	175	6%	0%	3%	86%	5%	0%	0%
Wednesday AM	185	4%	0%	3%	90%	4%	0%	0%
Wednesday PM	156	8%	0%	3%	83%	5%	0%	0%
Thursday AM	147	4%	0%	3%	87%	5%	0%	0%
Thursday PM	147	8%	0%	3%	82%	7%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Travel Mode by Weather Conditions



Travel Mode by Weather Condition

Weather Condition	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Sunny	271	6%	0%	0%	88%	6%	0%	0%
Rainy	469	6%	0%	0%	90%	4%	0%	0%
Overcast	70	11%	0%	0%	79%	10%	0%	0%
Snow	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Walk and Bike Barriers and Opportunities

Ogdensburg Borough Public School District is devoted to creating a safe walking and biking environment. The school holds various Walk and Bike to School events throughout the year, and has several Walking School Bus routes set up with designated school staff meeting students at each location. To analyze safety concerns and areas of improvement, Walking School Bus leaders and Avenues in Motion staff participated in a walkability study on December 7, 2021 to look at a current Walking School Bus route students take to school. Observations were made on traffic patterns and road conditions around the school, along with the conditions of the roads, traffic flow, sidewalk availability, walkability of the roads, and signage. Recommendations were made to increase safety and increase walkability for students.]

Ogdensburg Borough Public School is located on Main Street (County Road 517), a main connector between Route 15 and Route 23, and has several neighborhood roads located near the school.

The walkability study looked at the following locations:

- Passaic Avenue
- Main Street (virtual via GoogleMaps)

Passaic Avenue is a main roadway that runs adjacent to the school and is narrow, lacking availability of a shoulder or sidewalks, and has hills and a blind turn. Many drivers use this road as a cut through to Rt. 94.

Main Street is a County roadway with several neighborhoods located within 0.75 miles of the school. However, due to the heavy traffic volume and lack of sidewalk or shoulder, students and faculty are unable to walk to school. This route, if walkable, would provide an additional opportunity for accessing the school.

Safety Related Concerns:

- Heavy traffic along Passaic Avenue makes it difficult to cross the road
- Need more direct route from school door and sidewalk
- Chewed up edge of road along Passaic Avenue
- Passaic Avenue has a blind corner at the school at the school
- No school signage or painted school zone in roadway
- Pedestrian signage but the tree near it blocks view
- Limited shoulder and high vehicle traffic on Main Street makes it unsafe to walk from nearby neighborhood
- Limited street lighting on one side of Passaic Avenues

- Passaic Avenue is a narrow roadway with limited to no shoulder and no sidewalk. When majority bigger pick-up trucks drive on this road there is limited passing room.
- A section on Passaic Avenue has a hill with a curve that creates a blind turn for both drivers and pedestrians
- There is a limited number of speed limit signs

Driver Behavior Concerns:

- Drivers double park at the school, along Passaic Avenue
- Drivers park too close to sidewalk and corners
- Drivers have been observed not yielding to crossing guards or pedestrians at the Passaic Avenue and Main Street crossings
- Drivers speed along Passaic Avenue and Main Street

Road Crossing Related Concerns:

- There is no crosswalk striping at the at Passaic Avenue and Church Street intersection
- Along Passaic Avenue the pedestrian crossing signs are old, faded, and low visibility
- The crosswalk on Main Street in front of the school is low visibility and needs to be restriped

Community Driven Goals and Recommendations:

Short term

- ✓ Electric speed signs on Passaic Avenues and Main Street
- ✓ Bear prints along the side of the road to designate walking route
- ✓ Install high visibility pedestrian crossing and school zone signage along Passaic Avenues and Main Street
- ✓ Install high visibility crosswalks at all school route crossings

Mid-term

- ✓ Consider speed bumps to slow traffic on Passaic Avenue
- ✓ Consider installing more street lighting

Long-term

- ✓ Look into the feasibility of creating an off-road trail connecting Center Street to the school through the woods.
- ✓ Consider options for pedestrian/bicycle pathways or infrastructure along Main Street and Passaic Avenues



Passaic Avenue at the school-
No school zone signage



Passaic Avenue at the school-
Narrow roadway with no sidewalks



Passaic Avenue at the school-
Pedestrian crossing sign is blocked by
tree and is older- not high visibility



Passaic Avenue – roadway is narrow
with a blind curve on a hill ahead



Passaic Avenue- hill with a blind curve- no sidewalk or shoulder on the narrow roadway



Passaic Avenue- walking up hill towards the school. Narrow roadway with a blind curve



Passaic Avenue- chewed up roadway edge



Passaic Avenue at Church Street- no painted crosswalk

Passaic Avenue at Main Street-
The crosswalk across Main Street is starting to fade. This is a good example of a high visibility pedestrian crossing sign



Main Street (south of the school)-
This is a busy County roadway with no shoulder or sidewalk. There is a development south of the school that students and staff cannot walk from due to safety concerns

Next Steps:

Ogdensburg Borough Public School District will continue to participate in Safe Routes to School programs and encourage and promote students walking/biking to and from school. Ogdensburg Borough Public School District will continue to partner with Avenues in Motion to implement Safe Routes to School programs in their school. Ogdensburg Borough Public School District will continue to participate in Walk and Bike to School Days. Continual updates of student travel mode tallies will provide informative feedback for Ogdensburg Borough Public School District to evaluate and monitor their Safe Routes to School initiatives progress.

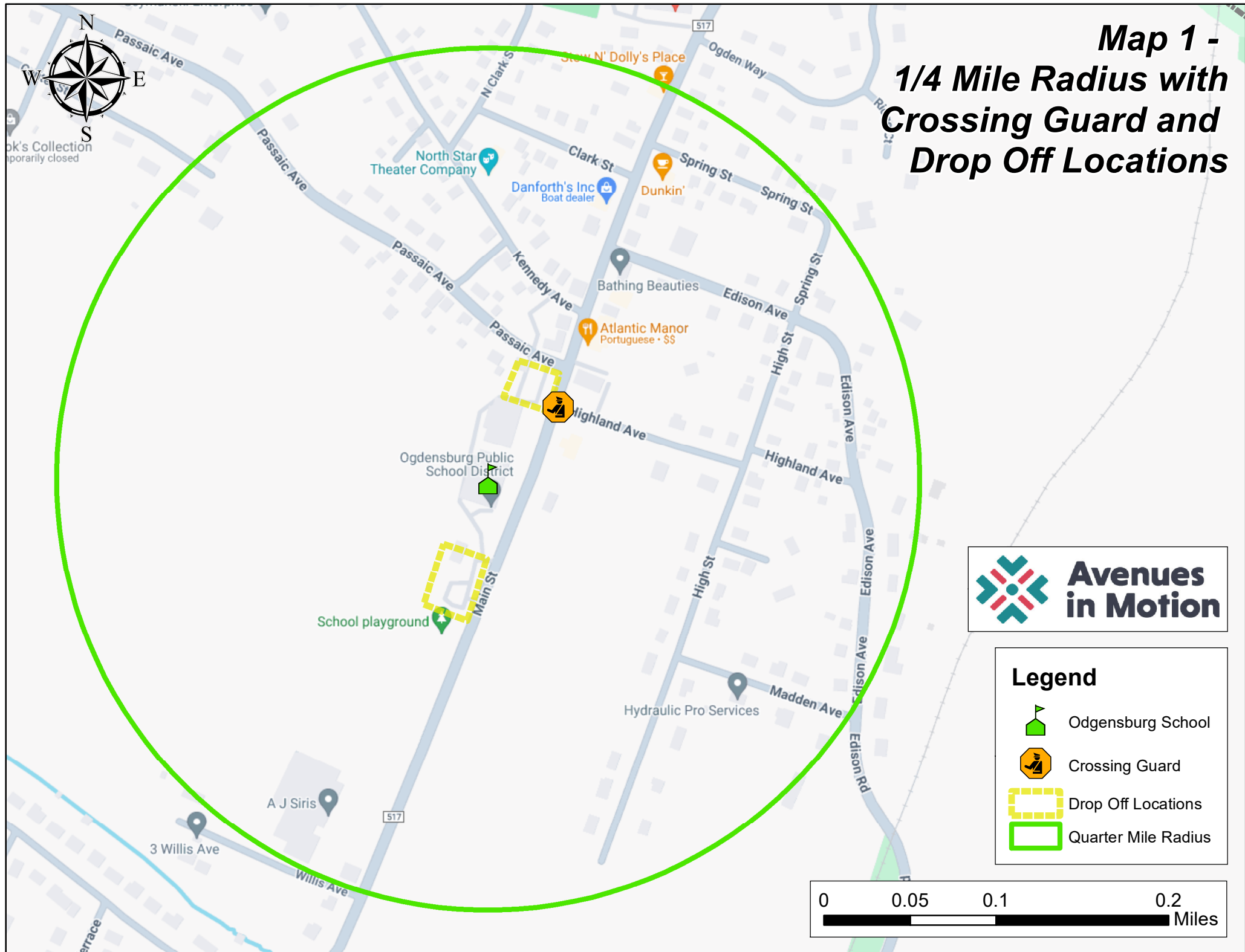
Action Timeline:

Education Actions	Responsibility	Timeline	Cost
Pedestrian/Bicycle Education Programming	School/Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low
Encouragement Actions			
Continue Walk to School Day and Walking School Bus events	School/Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low
Encourage families to carpool when walking/biking is not an option	School	Ongoing	Low
Engagement			
Community engagement activities focused on walking and biking	School/Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low
Equity			
Focus safety improvement and access on areas in the community most in need	School/Municipality	Ongoing-Future	Low
Engineering Actions			
Pedestrian safety infrastructure improvements along Main Street and Passaic Ave	Municipality, County	Ongoing	Mid-High
Apply for Safe Routes to School infrastructure grant	Municipality	Ongoing	Low
Evaluation Actions			
Periodically complete Students Arrival and Departure Tallies to assess students travel mode changes	School/Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low
Complete walkability assessments periodically to assess improvements and challenges to walkability	School, Avenues in Motion, Municipality	Ongoing	Low





Maps:

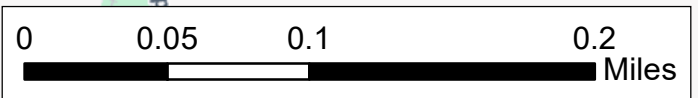
- Map 1. Ogdensburg Borough Public School District Crossing Guard and Drop-Off Locations (1/4 Mile Radius)
- Map 2. Ogdensburg Borough Public School District Crossing Guard and Drop-Off Locations (2 Mile Radius)
- Map 3. Walkability Audit Routes

Map 1 - 1/4 Mile Radius with Crossing Guard and Drop Off Locations

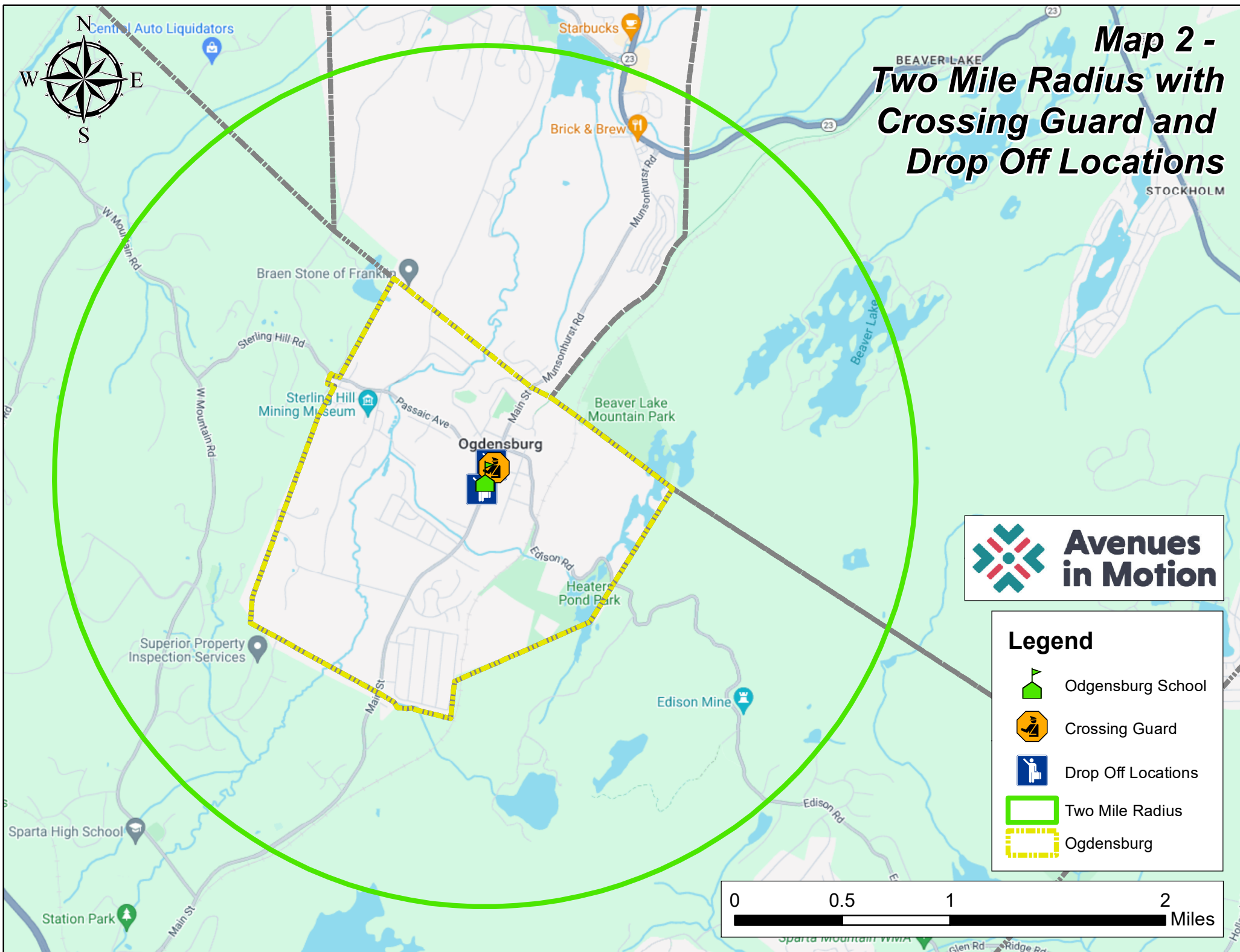


Legend

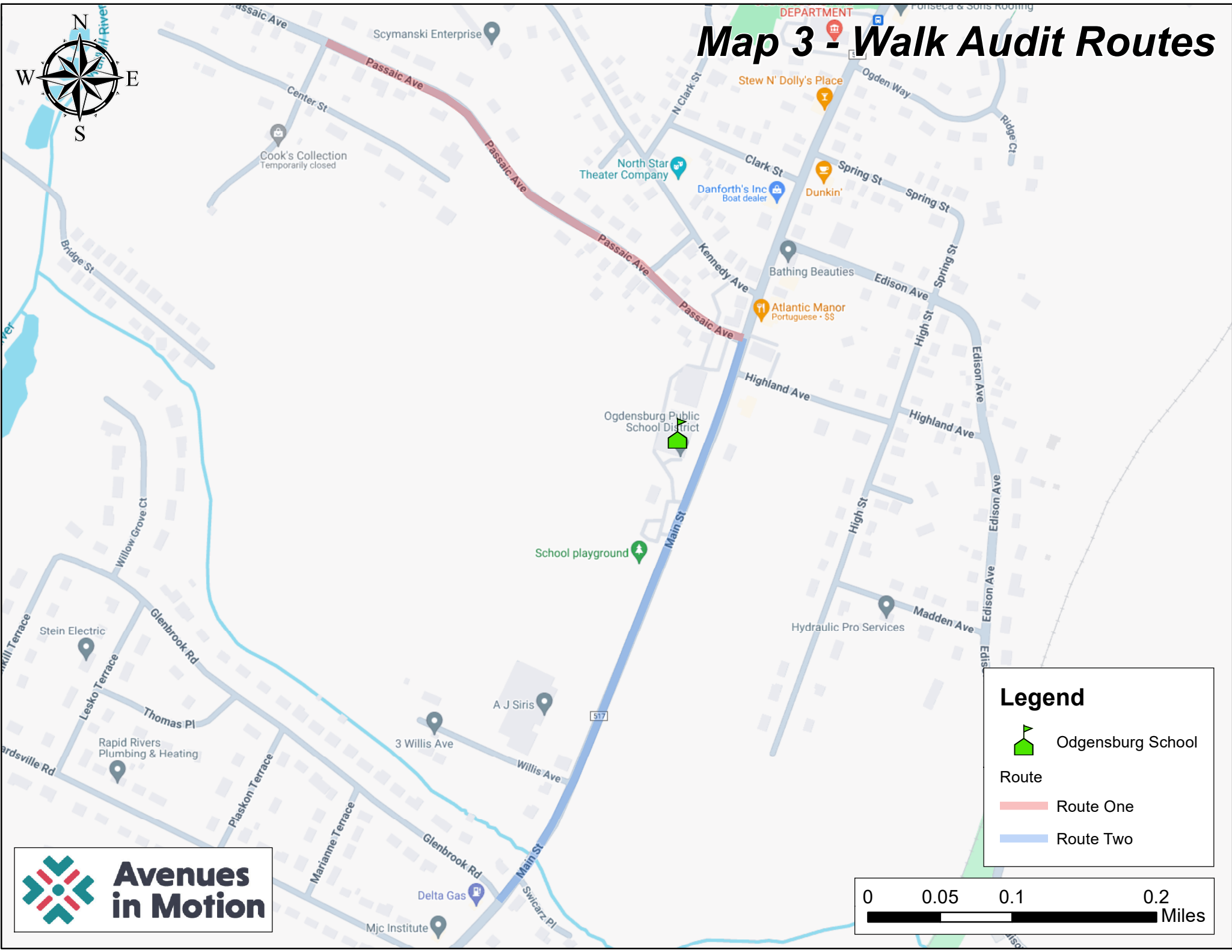
-  Ogdensburg School
-  Crossing Guard
-  Drop Off Locations
-  Quarter Mile Radius



Map 2 - Two Mile Radius with Crossing Guard and Drop Off Locations



Map 3 - Walk Audit Routes



Legend



Ogdensburg School

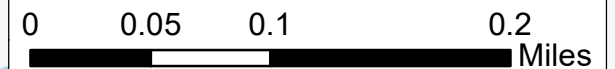
Route

Route One

Route Two



**Avenues
in Motion**



**Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation with funding from
the Federal Highway Administration**

